

## STATE OF MINNESOTA Office of Energy Security



Issued: December 28, 2009

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE

In the Matter of the Application of Lakefield Wind Project, LLC, for a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS)

Site Permit for the 205.5 Megawatt

Lakefield Wind Project in Jackson County, Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: IP-6829/WS-09-1239

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Lakefield Wind Project, LLC (Lakefield Wind) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) of up to 205.5 megawatts (MW) in Jackson County. The Commission accepted the site permit application on December 21, 2009.

**Project Description.** Lakefield Wind proposes to install 137, General Electric 1.5 MW wind turbine generators mounted on 80 meter (262.5 foot) towers, with a rotor diameter of 77 meters (252.6 feet), gravel access roads to the turbines, an electrical system consisting of underground collection and feeder lines that will deliver power to an on-site substation (located near the Lakefield Junction Substation owned by ITC), permanent meteorological towers; and an operations and maintenance building will be located near the project substation. Lakefield Wind's goal is to complete the construction of the Project and achieve commercial operation prior to December 31, 2010.

**Proposed Site Location.** The Project site is located in Heron Lake, Belmont, Des Moines and Hunter Townships about six miles west of Jackson on either side of I-90, as shown on the map below. Lakefield Wind has over 19,000 acres under easement agreement within the proposed 32,445 acre project area boundary. The site is large enough to provide flexibility in the micrositing process.

**Site Permit Review Process.** The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES), on behalf of the Commission is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minn. Stat. § 216F) and Wind Permitting Rules (Minn. Rules 7854). Upon completion of this process, the OES will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

The OES is currently soliciting comments on issues that should be considered in development of a draft site permit for this project (see below). Based on comments received, OES staff will prepare and submit a draft site permit to the Commission for consideration. If approved, the draft site permit will be issued for public review and comment. A public meeting will be held in the project area and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and present

comments. Persons on the mailing list for this project (see below) will receive notice of all public and Commission meetings.

**Public Comments.** The OES is soliciting comments on issues that should be considered in developing a draft site permit for this project. Such issues include unique characteristics of the proposed site or project that should be considered, and items that may be missing or mischaracterized in the site permit application. Interested persons may comment until **January 27, 2010.** Please include the project docket number (IP-6829/WS-09-1239) on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed or faxed to the OES Project Manager identified below.

**Project Contacts and Information**. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

Larry Hartman, Project Manager Minnesota Office of Energy Security 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101 (651) 296-5089 Fax: 651-297-7891

larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Ingrid Bjorklund, Public Advisor Minnesota Office of Energy Security 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500 St. Paul, MN 55101 (651) 297-7039 ingrid.bjorklund@state.mn.us

Persons interested in adding their names to the Department of Commerce mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at: http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us

Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ms. Melissa Peterson, Landowner & Community Coordinator, Tel (612) 746-0770 ext. 333; MPeterson@enxco.com.

The site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <a href="http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25684">http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25684</a> and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website at: <a href="https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.isp">https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.isp</a> (enter the docket number 09-1239).

Copies of the application are also available for review at the public library in Jackson, the Auditor's Office in Jackson County, the city offices in Jackson and Lakefield and with the clerks of Hunter, Des Moines, Belmont and Heron Lake townships.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-210-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

